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THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Identical letters dated 26 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 26 October 1998 addressed to you by Mr. A. Abdullah, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. G. Ravan FARHÂDI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Identical letters dated 26 October 1998 from the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

In the face of the recent offensives of the Taliban mercenaries in northern Afghanistan, the armed forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan have been vastly engaged in a repulsing drive for the liberation of the occupied lands. Therefore, the situation, in which widespread support by the local populations of the formerly occupied areas has played a crucial part, is taking a sharp and drastic turn against the Taliban militia and their Pakistani patrons.

The armed forces of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, presently on the path of continuous advancement in the north, have, to date, taken effective control of the Province of Takhâr, including the provincial capital of Tâloqan, the district of Shâhrawân north-east of the Kunduz Province, and the Archi district of Kunduz Province.

With each city and town falling to the government forces, however, as witnessed by the locals and confirmed by the international news media, among them Pakistan's, the retreating Taliban militia, as previously in the cases of the cities of Mazâr-é-Sharif, Maimana and Samangân, have now in the Andarâb valley taken hundreds of civilians hostage.

On 24 October 1998, one day after a Taliban attempt to attack Panjshêr valley through the famous Khâwâk pass turned into one of their worst defeats in recent days, the people in the Andarâb valley spoke of the removal by the militia of as many as 760 of their loved ones, predominantly able-bodied men of Tâjik ethnicity, the centuries-long inhabitants of the valley.

Recalling its scores of reports on the long-pursued policies of ethnic cleansing, genocide and forced displacement of the non-Pashtun ethnics of Afghanistan by the Taliban, which were made regularly available to the United Nations, the Islamic State of Afghanistan continues to believe that what is happening to the civilians in the Andarâb valley, besides being an act of desperation, is also part of a planned systematic campaign by the Pakistani military service of forced deportation of the populations of different areas, belonging to certain ethnic groups, aimed at a demographic remodelling of the country, that must be stopped at any cost.

(Signed) A. ABDULLÂH
Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs
Islamic State of Afghanistan